

REMARKS

The Official Action dated August 12, 2004, has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

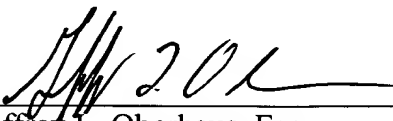
Claims 1, 2 and 6-12 have been cancelled. Since these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter or raise any new issues, entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1-2, and 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,522). In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 1, 2 and 6-12 have now been cancelled, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Finally, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 24-26.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and places the present the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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